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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE APPLICATION OF:
EDGAR B. CAHOON ET. AL.

APPLICATION NO.: 09/914,098

GROUP ART UNIT: 1652

FILED: AUGUST 22, 2001

EXAMINER: N. T. NASHED

DOCKET NO.: BB-1332

CONFIRMATION NO.: 9340

FOR: LYSOPHOSPHATIDIC ACID
ACETYLTRANSFERASES

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment and Response to the Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed February 20, 2004. A Petition for Extension of Time for two (2) months up to and including May 20, 2004, is filed simultaneously herewith. Applicant thanks the examiner for the courtesies extended in the telephone call of April 13, 2004 regarding a Preliminary Amendment dated May 24, 2001 and containing amendments to the claims. Examiner Nashed confirmed that the preliminary amendment had been received by the USPTO and entered in the electronic file. In view of this, the present response addresses the claims as if the preliminary amendment had been considered, per Examiner Nashed's suggestion.

Please amend the application as follows and consider the following remarks:

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 7 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.

Response to Restriction Requirement begins on page 11 of this paper.